



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI: NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION WILL EASE
BUREAUCRATIC BARRIERS, IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY***

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today urged the Senate to support a bill to reauthorize America's national service programs, which he said is a good step toward improving the administration and accountability of the programs, while reducing the bureaucratic barriers that have limited their success.

"A comprehensive reauthorization of our national service statutes is long overdue," Enzi said. "This is a fiscally responsible bill that will improve accountability, reduce bureaucracy and eliminate waste in our national service programs.

"This bill will leverage the efforts of a few to mobilize millions of faith-based organizations, church groups, non-profits, and individuals to volunteer their time and energy freely to serve their communities. It does not include any mandates of any kind for individuals or groups to volunteer."

Enzi said he hopes Congress can complete its work on the "Serve America Act," H.R. 1388, quickly and get the bill to the President for his signature.

"This bill is not perfect, but I am pleased with a number of the agreements we have been able to reach. I'm particularly pleased with the improvements we have made to expand access to national service programs in small and rural communities.

"My mother always told me that service to others is the rent we pay for the space we take up," Enzi said. "I hope we can complete this bill soon and help millions of Americans fulfill that rent payment."

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